



May 12, 2011

Ref Lindmark and Kate Joncas, Co-chairs, CTAC III
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Ave, Suite 3800
PO Box 34996
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

Dear Mr. Lindmark and Ms. Joncas,

On behalf of the staff and board of the Seattle Park Foundation, we would like to thank the members of the Citizen's Transportation Advisory Committee III (CTAC III) for their hard work and the opportunity to share our views on our priorities for transportation funding.

We understand it is a time of scarce resources and that difficult trade-offs need to be made when determining how to spend limited transportation dollars. While we support putting resources behind basic maintenance projects, we also feel strongly that investment into new facilities needs to continue or else Seattle will fall behind in providing much needed connections and retrofits. We especially support the retrofitting of existing roadways to better serve bicyclists and pedestrians, and the creation of critical bicycle and pedestrian connections so that people can safely walk and bike to parks, neighborhood commercial districts, schools, playfields and other local destinations. By making it easier and safer to walk and bike to local destinations as well as regionally throughout the city, more and more people will forsake their car and pick up their bikes or sneakers instead.

Thus, our top three priorities for any new revenues to be invested in new facilities are as follows:

- 1. Neighborhood Greenways** - Streets with low traffic volume and speed where bicycles, pedestrians and neighbors are given priority with relatively simple treatments such as pavement markings, signage, traffic calming and green infrastructure and landscaping. They are pleasant facilities that appeal to a much larger segment of the biking population. Many cities around the country and world have long embraced greenways as key components of their transportation system. We recommend funding the planned Neighborhood Greenway on Beacon Boulevard, and then in the Othello neighborhood on Myrtle Street (connecting to Light Rail, Beacon Blvd. and Lake Washington Blvd.)
- 2. Alki/Duwamish River Trail Missing Links** – Seattle and King County have done a wonderful job of building a connected regional trail network. However, several missing links in the system exist that, if filled, would allow pedestrians and cyclists to travel safely and continuously through the entire city. We recommend funding the last missing links in the Alki and West Duwamish trails. Further investment here will leverage existing projects and build strong new partnerships with King County, who is also very interested in filling this missing links, connecting to the Green River Trail to the south.

BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Bruce Blume

VICE PRESIENT
Barbara Crutcher

SECRETARY
Jodi Green

TREASURER
Myra Tanita

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Miller Adams
Ross Baker
Ken Bounds
Steven Clifford
Barbara Feasey
Bartow Fite
Brian Giddens
Gary Glant
Gerry Johnson
Brad Kahn
Jackie Kotkins
Carol Lewis
Pamela McCabe
John Nesholm
Charles Nolan
Roger Nyhus
Paul Owen
Beth Purcell
Doug Raff
Iain Robertson
Jerry Tone
Chris Towne
David Victor
Doug Walker
Charlie Wright

EX OFFICIO
MEMBERS

Christopher Williams
Terry Holme

- 3. Ballard Bridge and related improvements** – These are other critical missing links in the regional bicycle trail network. We support retrofitting the Ballard Bridge with bike facilities on the bridge span, improving the north and south bridge approaches, and establishing a Ship Canal spur trail connecting to Interbay.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide our viewpoints, and your work to oversee smart investment of public transportation dollars.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thatcher Bailey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thatcher" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bailey".

Thatcher Bailey
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Aue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rebecca" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Aue".

Rebecca Aue
Policy and Program Director